



Name of Policy: Research Ethics

Revised Policy Adoption Date: *SLSC Annual General Meeting, North Vancouver, BC, June 7, 2019.*

Historical Policy Adoption Date: *SLSC Board of Directors Meeting, November 8, 2014.*

Mission and Mandate: St. Leonard's Society of Canada (SLSC) is a membership-based, charitable organization dedicated to community safety. The mission of SLSC is to promote a humane and informed justice policy and responsible leadership to foster safe communities. It:

- a. Endorses evidence-based approaches to criminal and social justice;
- b. Conducts research and develops policy;
- c. Supports its member affiliates; and
- d. Advances collaborative relationships and communication among individuals and organizations dedicated to social justice.

Purpose of SLSC Policies: Policies of SLSC are developed in collaboration with affiliate agencies, SLSC's Board of Directors and members, and are ratified at the Annual General Meeting with the express purposes of:

- Identifying criminal justice and related issues relevant to its membership;
- Reflecting SLSC organizational values and social justice goals;
- Articulating SLSC approaches, practices and standards to achieve these goals; and
- Ensuring the good governance of SLSC on matters of legal, administrative and organizational relevance.

Background:

The ethical conduct of research is critical to maintaining the integrity of the projects that are produced by SLSC, and to the rights of the research subjects who voluntarily participate and contribute to the body of knowledge pertaining to areas of interest for the organization.

In recent years, SLSC has completed research projects involving human research subjects. As such, every attempt should be made with the resources available to SLSC to conduct ethical research that is in line with the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (December 2010). The Tri-Council Policy Statement (TCPS) is a joint policy of Canada's three federal research agencies – the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). These are also known as "the Agencies".

The people of Canada, through Acts of Parliament, have created and funded the Agencies to promote and assist research within their respective legislative mandates. In discharging their mandates, the Agencies wish to promote research that is conducted according to the highest ethical standards. The Agencies have, therefore, adopted this Policy as a benchmark for the ethical conduct of research involving humans.

Issues/Scope:

The TCPS is based on three core principles: Respect for Persons (which considers the intrinsic value of human beings and the respect and consideration that they are due); Concern for Welfare (aiming to protect the welfare of participants and, if possible, promote that welfare in light of any risks associated with research); and Justice (the obligation to treat people fairly and equitably with equal respect and concern).

SLSC recognizes the importance of the TCPS and the standards it has set for conducting ethical research practices. In accordance with the TCPS, SLSC has developed procedures for conducting research with informed and voluntary consent and maintains the privacy and confidentiality of all participants unless they have given permission to be identified. Research is also conducted in accordance with SLSC's privacy policy.

Resolutions:

Whereas St. Leonard's Society of Canada affirms its commitment to the ethical conduct of research as set out in the Tri-Council Policy Statement (TCPS), and adheres to ethical research practices to the best of its ability based on available resources,

Whereas SLSC aims to conduct research in support of correctional policies and practices that increase community safety and successful integration,

And whereas the Society endorses ethical research practice for projects, particularly those involving humans,

Be it resolved that the St. Leonard's Society of Canada will:

- Promote the conduct of research in accordance with the core principles of the Tri-Council Policy Statement (TCPS) and other standards of appropriate professional and scientific bodies in relation to ethical considerations, methodology, and scientific rigour that enhances correctional practice and contributes towards knowledge of evidence-based approaches;
- Ensure that SLSC approved procedures for obtaining informed, voluntary consent from research participants will be maintained for all research projects and will be held in accordance with SLSC's privacy policy; and
- Promote knowledge transfer by ensuring that final reports produced through research studies will be accessible to all interested parties.

Additional Information**SLSC Reports/Publications:**

- SLSC Letter of Information Template
- SLSC Audio Consent Form Template
- SLSC Consent to Participate in Research Template

External Reports/Publications:

- Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. (2014). Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans. Retrieved from <https://www.cmcc.ca/Tri-Council%20Policy%20Statement.pdf>